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INDIA.

Existence of plague at Calcutta suspected.

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Calcutta, April 27, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to state that a number of suspicious cases have been reported to the health officer here within the past few days, but it has not been decided whether they are real plague or not, and it may be several days before the decision is announced.

It would be a terrible calamity if it were to get into the densely populated native quarter of the city, with its narrow streets, reeking with filth, though the health officers are trying to put that quarter into a better sanitary condition, and are preparing to combat the disease should it make its appearance here.

Should the plague break out here, the authorities have decided to adopt a different course from that pursued in Bombay, and, instead of segregation in all cases, to give the option between segregation and vaccination, believing the latter will be generally accepted by the natives and be more effectual, besides creating less friction.

Plague once having a foothold here, it would be almost impossible to stamp it out in the crowded native quarter with practically no measures of sanitation.

It would be disastrous to the business of the city which depends so largely upon its foreign commerce, as, of course, quarantine would be at once established against all ships sailing from this port.

Should it be authoritatively announced as being here in epidemic form, I will immediately advise the Department by cable in accordance with paragraph 379 of Consular Regulations.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, R. F. PATTERSON,
Consul-General.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Quarantine against the Hedjaz and Karachi on account of plague.

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Calcutta, April 21, 1898.

SIR: Inclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit, for the information of the Department, copies of notifications issued by the Government of Bengal Marine Department, enforcing quarantine against vessels arriving from Karachi and those from Hedjaz, *i. e.*, pilgrimage from Mecca.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, R. F. PATTERSON,
United States Consul-General.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure No. 864—Marine.]

MARINE DEPARTMENT, Calcutta, April 18, 1898.

SIR: I am directed to inform you that the officers under this department concerned have been instructed to treat the Hedjaz as an infected area within the meaning of the Venice sanitary convention regulations of 1897 and to strictly enforce against vessels arriving from the Hedjaz the rules for quarantine which are in force in the port of Calcutta.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,
T. H. CLOWES,
Under Secretary.

The CONSUL-GENERAL FOR AMERICA.